

and has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide since the year 2000.

After giving birth to a child with CDH and finding no support groups for mothers of babies with CDH, my friend, Dawn, founded the Association of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research, Awareness, and Support, or CHERUBS, for short, in 1995.

Headquartered in the beautiful town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, CHERUBS is an international charity helping over 5,700 families in 61 countries.

Mr. Speaker, babies born with CDH and their loving families face a difficult journey, and I rise today to raise awareness and to recognize the importance of strong individuals like Dawn Williamson, who work to make the journey for others easier and more comfortable than it was for her.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2016 as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month. This condition is far too common for us to know so little.

□ 1100

#### HONORING THE VICTORY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am always reminded of the greatness of America. When the word came: Go west, go west. A little church, a little general store, and a school.

I am excited this morning to honor the Victory Early College High School in Acres Home, sponsored by the Aldine Independent School District. And I thank Dr. Bamberg, the superintendent; the trustees; and, as well, Dr. Phyllis Cormier, for they are celebrating right now the National Blue Ribbon Award ceremony—yes, a public school.

Victory Early College High School is one of two schools in Houston and one of 335 schools nationally to earn the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon School at an award ceremony hosted by the Department of Education. They exemplify overall academic excellence. Yes, inner-city children, poor children, are showing progress and closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. This particular school has been exemplary in both areas.

We are also celebrating Senior Signing Day because each of our graduating seniors will graduate under the distinguished high school plan, and all have been accepted to a 4-year university. They will announce their schools at this event—a public school.

The mayor will be there. I am in Washington. I wanted to pay tribute to them. And I want to thank Aldine for letting their M.O. Campbell Center be used for a shelter for those who are fleeing the flood.

#### PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VETERANS ACT

(Mrs. ROBY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Protection and Advocacy for Veterans Act. This bill will engage our protection and advocacy agencies to ensure veterans are receiving the mental health care and substance abuse treatment they deserve.

Increased demand from veterans returning from war, a national shortage of mental health professionals, and a prescription drug abuse epidemic have made it difficult for the VA to keep pace with the growing need in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, progress is being made, but I believe we can do better. I also believe that we owe it to our veterans to look beyond the traditional means and bring all available resources to bear in ensuring access to proper care for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

For 40 years, protection and advocacy agencies have monitored the quality of care in State-operated hospitals, psychiatric wards, and other facilities. They have the authority to inspect medical records, make recommendations to providers, and, when necessary, take legal action on behalf of patients. I believe bringing this high degree of patient advocacy expertise to the VA can greatly benefit our veterans.

#### NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 24 to April 30 as National Infertility Awareness Week. Infertility is defined as the inability to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term after 12 months of trying to conceive.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease.

Today, one in eight couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility affects approximately 10 percent of the population, but rarely are the necessary medical treatments covered by insurance. Alarming, this, too, is the case for veterans who have served our country and have become infertile as a result of their service.

This issue strikes diverse groups, affecting people from all socioeconomic levels and cuts across racial, ethnic, and religious lines.

We must acknowledge the medical and emotional aspects of infertility and continue to support efforts to make treatment more accessible to

help improve the quality of life for people with infertility.

This week, I ask that we all recognize and raise awareness on the issue of infertility as a disease and support the family-building efforts of those struggling with this disease of infertility.

#### TOP 50 BEST TOWNS FOR FAMILIES IN THE GARDEN STATE

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note a special distinction for several communities in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

New Jersey Family magazine has named several towns in the congressional district I serve as being among the top 50 best towns for families in the Garden State.

Nearing the top of the list, at second place, is Montgomery Township in Somerset County. Joining Montgomery on the top 50 list are Bethlehem, Berkeley Heights, Branchburg, Chester Township, Clinton Township, Cranford, Hillsborough, Lebanon, Long Hill, New Providence, and West Amwell.

I know these communities, and my wife and I live in Clinton Township. Each has excellent public schools, a strong local spirit, and each is a great place to plant roots and raise a family.

I congratulate the local leadership in these municipalities, the elected officials and community leaders—nearly all of whom are volunteers—for the excellent management of these towns. Each is very deserving of this recognition.

#### RECOGNIZING JOHN L. SMITH OF THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, the Las Vegas Review Journal, Nevada's largest newspaper, lost another standard bearer this week. John L. Smith, who resigned after citing difficulties with management, spent nearly three decades enlightening, emboldening, and entertaining the Las Vegas community.

In his resignation letter, John L. Smith said that he learned to never punch down in his weight class, an approach that is rare in journalism today.

He wrote: "You don't hit little people. You defend them."

Those principles, reflected in his columns that appeared four times a week, made him a beloved figure, a respected wordsmith, and a community leader.

It is no surprise that during the week when he resigned, he received the Ancil Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism. It wasn't the first time his work had been recognized, and I am sure it will not be the last.